

HACK 207 (10200574)**IN THE CLAIMS****Claims 1-57 (cancelled)**

Claim 58 (currently amended): A method of improving plant growth or soil condition, comprising applying to said plant or soil a composition comprising ~~malt extract or spent grain liquor, wherein said composition contains less than 0.5% lime w/w.~~

Claim 59 (previously presented): The method according to claim 58, wherein the composition comprises cations, free amino nitrogen, glucans, carbohydrates, sugars, amino acid peptides, and polyphenols.

Claim 60 (currently amended): The method according to claim 58, wherein the ~~malt extract or spent grain liquor is a by-product of a brewing process.~~

Claim 61 (currently amended): The method according to claim 58, wherein the ~~malt extract or spent grain liquor is a by-product of beer brewing.~~

Claim 62 (currently amended): The method according to claim 58, wherein the ~~composition spent grain liquor~~ comprises both soluble and insoluble material.

Claim 63 (previously presented): The method according to claim 62, wherein the soluble material comprises one or more of simple sugars, free amino nitrogen, glucans, vitamins and calcines.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The method according to claim 63, wherein the free amino nitrogen is a protein.

Claim 65 (previously presented): The method according to claim 62, wherein the insoluble material comprises proteins and/or carbohydrates.

Claim 66 (currently amended): The method according to claim 58, wherein the composition is a liquid or a solid.

HACK 207 (10200574)

Claim 67 (previously presented): The method according to claim 66, wherein the solid is a dry powder.

Claim 68 (currently amended): The method according to claim 66 58, wherein said composition further comprises one or more bacteria bacterium and/or yeast.

Claim 69 (currently amended): The method according to claim 68, wherein the bacteria said composition comprises are a mixture of organisms bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus* spp, *Pseudomonas* spp, *Azotobacter* spp, *Nitrobacter* spp, *Azospirillum* spp, and *Dexia* spp.

Claim 70 (currently amended): The method according to claim 66 58, wherein said composition further comprises yeast extract and/or a yeast cell wall preparation.

Claim 71 (previously presented): The method according to claim 58, wherein said improving comprises prevention or inhibition of fungal growth.

Claim 72 (previously presented): The method according to claim 58, wherein the composition is applied by spray or mechanical spreader.

Claim 73 (currently amended): A method of improving plant growth or soil condition, comprising applying to said plant or soil an effective amount of malt extract ~~or~~ and spent grain liquor.

Claim 74-76 (cancelled)

Claim 77 (previously presented): A fertilizer composition comprising malt extract and spent grain liquor.

Claim 78 (New): The method according to claim 58, wherein the composition is a liquid.

Claim 79 (New) A method for producing a fertilizer composition comprising:

HACK 207 (10200574)

- (a) separating spent grain from wort extract;
- (b) separating spent grain liquor from said spent grain; and
- (c) recovering said spent grain liquor wherein said spent grain liquor is useful as a fertilizer.